



Rockwell Charter High School

3435 E. Stonebridge Lane
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005
(801) 789-7625

Governing Board Meeting

7:00 pm, Tuesday, May 10, 2022

Library

AGENDA

Attendance: Kelly Hall, Mike Smith, Dale Erling, Brad Barlow, Julie Young, Misty DeFarias, Nate Adams, Dave Persinger, Julie Neel

Start: 7:00pm - Dale Erling

- I. Pledge - 7:00 Dale
- II. Public Comment (20 min maximum) - Ut St Board of Ed Public Comment Policy read by Kelly Hall

Holly Robinson - Passed on comment

Natalie Redhair - On behalf of food 2 students. Invite the board to Foods 2 presentation.

Isa - Questions - What are current policies when reporting abuse, suicide, etc. What is the admin legally obligated to do when these things are reported? Last question, is "saying sorry" a valid punishment when a student harrasses another student?

Ethan White - Hand out to the board. Express frustrations and grievances and has questions. Frustrated by recent events. Feel brushed under the rug, silenced and muffled in what they have to say. What happens to a teacher when sexually harrass sudent or say vulgar or provacative things about student or bodies in a class and during class time. They feel the school is not taking good care of the students themselves. More concerned with PR than emotional wellbeing of students. Feel there is not enough focus on the students and internal health of the school. Feels that the consequence of saying sorry is not enough.

Christy Buchanan - Things said in the community in general about staff not taking care of the students. Has daughter who was at school in 18-19(?) and left because she tried to commit suicide due to the actions of a teacher at the school. Concerns were brought to Beck and he swept it under the rug. Has a second daughter at school, has Turrets, and is now medicated due to actions of the same teacher. Mrs. Buchanan sat with Misty and Misty listened to all the concerns and was there to help her daughter. Misty

was an advocate and her voice. Previous director dropped the ball and the current director has 100% of Mrs. Buchanan's faith. Misty is an advocate for daughters at the school.

Faith Lane - Been here since 7th grade. Now I am afraid to come to school. Being bullied by a student and has wanted to kill herself. Has struggled for months. Was not handled properly. Only had help from teachers and friends. Did not receive help from Misty. Misty said the student was punished but the punishment was an apology and that was not enough. It is not fair that the student threatened physical violence to her and made her want to kill herself and if the admin can't do more than call it a minor offense then the teacher shouldn't be there. In the meeting with Misty she didn't do anything to help Faith feel safe. Faith is calling for the school to make changes to make the school safe.

Holly Robinson - Bullying and suicide attempts should be reported to parents. Met with Misty a month ago and seemed receptive, but then met with kids and was condescending to them. She fired a teacher that the students felt safe with. She turns down the students' ideas. She was great as a counselor but not great as a Director. She needs to apologize. Letting Morgan go at the end of the semester was calculating and cold. Felt that Morgan was let go because Misty didn't like her. If things don't change her daughter will not be here next year.

Staci Sokol - Has communicated with Misty several times. Has communicated with Mr. Connell. Has a very healthy presence inside and outside the school. Known as Nana and Katie's grandmother. Kids come to her anytime and any day. Concerned about their well being in this facility. Her fear of speaking tonight is retaliation against her granddaughter who has had to be medicated, seeing a psychiatrist, and is self harming because of situations at the school that started last year. Assumed the situations were taken care of, but can see they are not. Will not mention names. Community and children are being destroyed. Parents are not allowed to know what is happening at Rockwell. The students are being silenced. She commends the students for coming forward. Has proof of several people that have come to her regarding suicide because of the school. There is bullying, sexual harassment by a teacher, and abuse of authority. There is one person that abuses authority in the school. School is not safe, depression on a sharp rise, suicide mentioned several times. A significant and abrupt loss of trust and mourning of a Rockwell family member leaving the school, has left the students without closure. Will not be threatened for protecting her kids at Rockwell. Implore the board to listen to the voices that have been silenced and take heed. Drastic actions and measures need to be taken. Grandparent of girl directly affected by the actions of the school. Nothing would be swept under the rug. Board has heard the tip of the iceberg. Never received communication about attempted suicides until it was brought to her by

the students. Grand daughter is being sexually exploited and made to do provocative things.

Mr. Buchanan - I am the reason Mrs. Olsen was fired. Finds it amazing talking attempted suicide when his daughter was taken to suicide because Mrs Olsen told her she is too fat to do different things. If someone has evidence of the things mentioned then they need to take it to the UT Co prosecutor or to the officer here in the room. The problem here is that the teachers are allowed to teach before certified. Has official complaint with the State and is bring charges as soon as they can. Suggests we bring in mental health counselor monthly. There is bullying happening. Cannot blame the actions of a poor teacher on the Director. When Issues were brought to Beck, it was swept under the rug, when brought to Misty, they were addressed. They are here because their children trust him and they talk to him about the things happening at the school. He is furious we have not already brought in volunteers that specialize in juvenile suicide prevention. They don't charge anything and specialize in children. It is about the children. Need mental health counselors and unwind the web that has been created with the cover ups and the bullying. It is a disservice to NOT bring on someone to help these children. Has evidence and documentation of the things that happened to his children if we wish to see it. This is a disgrace. The board needs to stand up for these children. When had issues, he took it to Misty and it was resolved. A lot of the parents and people here that are supporting the children are saying the same thing. We need to figure out how to get mental health counselors in the school and find resolution. Need these figures in the school for a couple hours everyday. Threats need to be taken seriously.

Kelly motion for a recess. Julie second recess. Voice vote carried. - 7:38pm

7:43 - Resume meeting. Opening back to public comment to current students only.

Lola Stinifer (?) 11th grade - Complaints against Misty

Katie Sokol - An issue that was never taken care of. Afraid of being at school, of wearing what she wants, of being looked at the wrong way. Afraid to come to school because afraid of being judged. Only family hears her. Afraid to come to school and hear comments about her body from a teacher. Wants students to be safe but has a friend who experienced the same thing from the same teacher. Multiple students have the same complaint and nothing happened. Feels powerful and good that she can stand up for women who are afraid to come to school. Shaking because so angry that a monster can walk around here.

Sadie Card - Same teacher. Sister felt targeted sexually. Instead of getting help she needed was told she is hormonal. Wants something to be done about this. Multiple girls feel uncomfortable. And want out of this teacher. Holly and mother spoke to the

school about this teacher and nothing has been done. Teacher still teaches at the school. These problems were last year.

Ethan White - Standing up for the student body. More than the people in this room have come to him. Problems have gone to the proper authority and we know who and it is not just the girls. Has had comments thrown his way regarding pornography, and inappropriate things on the furniture in his room, etc. The admin does not have proper training. Sam is a great counselor. Our admin doesn't have proper qualifications and training to help these students. Also, the one safe place he has had this entire year for school as well as personal has been removed from this school and he doesn't feel there is any other safe place at school or at home to take that place.

End public comment: 7:52pm

III. Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: 7:52pm

A. April 19, 2022 - Mike motion to approve minutes. Brad second. Voice vote in the unanimous.

IV. 2021-2022 Financial Review and potential vote Nate Adams: 7:53pm - Working on getting Essr reimbursements through. One area trending high, but with school ending soon not overly concerned. A couple line items we will have areas of saving. Specifically in the 100 section. Fica and Health Insurance biggest ticket items and they are right on track. The 300's have a couple of red items. Keeping an eye on Sped. Essr funds earmarked for special ed and not on budget yet but can utilize if need to. Purchased property services doing really good. Repairs and maintenance doing really well. Feels confident in being able to put some more money on the bottom line. Goal is to end the year and come under budget. Don't want to be too aggressive in the forecast. 700's van is the only red item. Line item 4100 will put us back in the positive. No need to vote this month. But will need to vote next month. Working on budget and so far looking pretty good on where we will end. Will bring it to the next board meeting and then take it to the state for review.

Dave: Help me to understand how reserves works...last school year we were 100,000 in the hole? Mike and Nate, no we did not lose money and the spreadsheet is showing an error. Our cash on hand is our reserve. Dave: We have 44 days of restricted cash the state has said is earmarked for specific things. We have 109 days of cash to spend at our discretion. Nate: yes. Dave: 152 days cash on hand, does line 4100 reflected in 152 days? Nate: no, we have not received it yet. 3578 - scheduled to receive just over 65000 for that. Because of covid, if we were not able to spend all 60000 the school is able to unrestrict 30% of that.

Clint via zoom - 8:06pm - updates regarding the refinancing being considered. Application to refinance authority is in. Previously discussed, waiting for info back on potential projects. Then can narrow in how it matches with financing. Can dialogue with the committee in the next week or so. Things look positive moving forward. Will provide dates when the Authority gets back to them.

- V. 2022-2023 Budget Review - 8:08pm - Nate: Already covered it.
- VI. Fraud Risk Assessment - 8:08 pm - Mike - Assessment came back and we are in the low category. 355 out of 395 out of fraud risk. Some things don't apply to a school this size.
- VII. Discussion and vote: Employee Retention Credit RFP bids - 8:09pm - Misty - Only one we got back was B10 Capital. Nate: Employee retention tax credit - idea is to help businesses that experienced more than 20% revenue loss in 2020 or 2021. If not the case, any quarter didn't lose that 20% were you affected by mandates, covid related stuff, etc. The tax credit that is very detailed oriented, put out an RFP to help analyze data and help us submit amended returns to the IRS. These companies charge a fee and anticipation is this will come over the \$50000 set as the threshold. Wanted to find someone who has been in business 5 or more years, who will back us down the road. This company will be here for us over the next 5 years. Believes nothing will come up.

Dave: TO be clear, talking about line item 4100? Yes.

Dale: 15% fee would be piece in this budget and future budget. Yes., net expenses. Any questions from the Board? No.

Nate: The money coming in is unrestricted money. They say 3 months but in reality it will be more like 6-8 months. Also, was made aware that there is a personal connection to the owner of the company. Wanted it to be disclosed.

Dale: Motion to approve payment for services. Dave motions to approve. Mike seconds. Voice vote unanimous in affirmative.

- VIII. Committees Report - 8:16pm Dale
 - A. Fundraising - Dave: Have not had a meeting. Reached out to parents over FSO about being on committee with him. Wants to focus on national scale and FSO will focus more on school level.
 - B. Building - Mike - Nothing this month. Just waiting for bids.
 - C. Marketing - Dale - meeting on Friday to move the web project along. Hopefully making progress to getting the website updated. Waiting to hear from the family that wants to help with the banner on the back of school.
- IX. Board Training - 8:19pm - Dale - Nothing scheduled so moving on.
- X. Changing of School Name: Discussion and vote - 8:19pm Dale - Most expenses are related to the building (signage, etc.)

Misty - The survey results - 44% indifferent, 26% disapprove, 29% approve

Names given: EM Academy, EM Charter School, Rockwell Academy/Charter, Porter Rockwell, over 50% said no or didn't care.

Dave: My Opinion is that having high school in the name is not a clear representation since we have 7th and 8th grade.

Mike: Are we waiting for anything else? Would like to table it until we can dive into it further. How did each of the categories vote?

Julie motioned to table it. Mike second motion. Voice vote tabled unanimous in affirmative.

XI. Dress Code Policy: Discussion and potential vote - 8:24pm

Misty - survey results: 1 against - 5 in favor : (Misty going to add pictures to the notes)

Dress code issues to be presented to the teachers by Misty.

Dave: Interested in the same breakdown as previous (who voted on what)

Misty presented some teacher suggestions she will be discussing with them in June. Also presented some parent suggestions and student suggestions.

Dale motion to take out potential vote. Dave second. Voice vote unanimous to modify agenda.

XII. Director Report - 8:31pm - Misty

- A. Maintenance Updates - Had a walk through on Friday when school was empty with carpet, painter, and roof. Asked for RFP's by Friday so we can review over the weekend. Need a minimum of 4 to meet on the 17th to review and approve RFP's. Clint will come to advise. Initial quotes - carpet about 50000, paint for interior and exterior about 80000 for interior and exterior will be about half that. Roofing requested insurance info because of a lot of wind and hail damage. 5-8 more years on the existing membrane. Point of view has been from HVAC but the newest assessment was roofers who know more. Majority of repairs will be shingles over classrooms (the non-membrane sections).

Mike: Nate, any experience in insurance issues like this? No. Reach out to the insurance.

Dave: Paint seems expensive. Misty: That's why we got a second bid. The doors are the main cost because they have to be scraped and sanded. Dave: What is the impression of the doors? Misty: they are giving us a cost breakdown so we can decide where to spend the money. Enrollment Report : Misty- 61% of students have responded to re-enrollment. Overall: we are 50% to our goal. Dave: Wants to know the retention rate from these numbers. Also, is it possible to hit the 310 projection? Misty: We have a lot of room to still grow and we have to hit the 310 so she is going to focus on that. Some parents have asked to be on the marketing committee with some unique ideas that are simple and will help.

- B. Exhibit A update - Positive Exhibit A will pass on Thursday
- C. Online Presentation for SCSB - The more Board in attendance the better. This is the proposal of how our online would look. Wanted to personalize what Rockwell is so starting with a video on how we view the school. Giving the presentation to the Board to get feedback to edit before Thursday's presentation.

XIII. Executive Session - 9:08pm Dave motions for executive session for character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. seq., Utah Code Ann. Board invited in. Misty asked to step out and Nate asked to stay. Mike seconds. Voice vote unanimous in affirmative. Meeting closed at 9:10pm.

- A. The Board will consider a motion to close the meeting to hold a strategy session to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation, and/or to discuss the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property, and/or the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in conformance with § 52-4-204 and 52-4-205 et. seq., Utah Code Ann.

Reconvene 11:16pm

Julie motion to adjourn. Mike second. Voice vote unanimous in affirmative to adjourn.

XIV. Adjournment Upcoming Board Meetings..... 11:17pm

June 14, 2022